

## Taste & Odor In Your Drinking Water

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Periodically, Water Resources receives calls asking about a musty/earthy taste and odor in your drinking water. This is just an aesthetic issue and poses no health risk.

The occasional change in taste and odor is caused by naturally occurring algae in the canal system. The algae release harmless compounds (algae by-products) into the water, creating the musty or earthy taste and odor. A few things to keep in mind should you observe this taste and odor are:

- Scottsdale's drinking water meets all regulatory requirements for health and safety
- o These low levels of algae by-products pose no risk to your health
- Some people are more sensitive to the change in the water than others (some people notice, while others do not).

Typically, the algae are more prevalent during the spring, summer and fall months. During these months the city utilizes an additional treatment process called Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) to help address regulatory challenges associated with higher temperatures.

An additional benefit of GAC use is taste and odor removal. This is why you generally will not notice musty/earthy taste and odor during these warmer months.

Occasionally, the algae may be present during the colder winter months (Dec. through March) when GAC is not required to help address the regulatory challenges related to higher temperatures.

Remember, your water is completely safe to drink, meets all federal, state and county regulations and there is no risk to your health.

To reduce the musty/earthy taste and odor, it is recommended to store the water in an uncovered pitcher at room temperature or in the refrigerator for one day. You can also add a slice of lemon or cucumber.